

Senate Resolution 1217

By: Senator Hill of the 4th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Carl Cowart; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Carl Cowart served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty in two  
3 branches of the United States military during two of the bloodiest overseas conflicts in  
4 American history; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Cowart, the beloved son of Tobe and Lucy Mae Cowart, grew up in  
6 Tattnall County, Georgia, and dropped out of school in the seventh grade to work in the  
7 family sawmill and help put food on the family table during the Great Depression; and

8 WHEREAS, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939, which was disbanded in  
9 early 1942, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Cowart joined the United States Navy and, with great determination and  
11 dedicated study, graduated from a communications course at the University of Illinois,  
12 preparing him for his later assignment as a communications specialist for the *USS Borie*, a  
13 reactivated Clemson-class WWI Navy destroyer; and

14 WHEREAS, communications specialists were in demand during World War II, and Mr.  
15 Cowart was transferred to the *SS Austvangan*, a Norwegian merchant ship with only two  
16 people who spoke broken English; and

17 WHEREAS, while stationed on the *SS Austvangan*, the vessel was required to perform  
18 zigzag maneuvers to avoid German U-boats and was part of an allied convoy of 26 ships  
19 which traveled from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Murmansk, Russia; and

20 WHEREAS, after his convoy mission, Mr. Cowart attended amphibious training near South  
21 Hampton, England, which consisted of familiarization with amphibious landings, strategy,  
22 tactics, and equipment, and he was assigned to Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) 1176; and

23 WHEREAS, with LCI-1176, Mr. Cowart served as a gunner and a signalman, eventually  
24 unloading troops at Omaha Beach and recovering his fallen comrades; and

25 WHEREAS, after World War II, Mr. Cowart returned home to work in the family sawmill,  
26 but in 1946 he decided to re-enlist with the Navy, hoping to get the two stripes he had earned  
27 back; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Cowart was informed by a local recruiter that the Navy had done away with  
29 the rank of signalman and that the gunner ranks were full, so he walked across the hall and  
30 enlisted with the United States Army and requested the most challenging assignment, the  
31 82nd Airborne Division; and

32 WHEREAS, while training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Mr. Cowart qualified and was later  
33 accepted into the Green Berets, 77th Special Forces unit; and

34 WHEREAS, he was assigned to the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during the Korean  
35 Conflict and jumped behind enemy lines at Sukchon, North Korea, 40 miles northwest of  
36 Pyongyang, to intercept Korean trains that were transporting American POW's back to North  
37 Korea; and

38 WHEREAS, Mr. Cowart left the Army in 1956 and returned home to Tattnall County,  
39 Georgia, where he worked and retired from Canoochee EMC and became an accomplished  
40 writer; and

41 WHEREAS, he serves as a guest writer for *The Tattnall Journal*, has written for *The*  
42 *Savannah Morning News*, and wrote *Day of the Blackbirds*, an account of his Airborne  
43 training and *All the Warriors were Valiant*, a story of the sinking of the *USS Borie* in  
44 November, 1943, which was featured in *Military Magazine*; and

45 WHEREAS, Mr. Cowart embodies the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something  
46 greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding  
47 accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished American be recognized  
48 appropriately.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
50 commend Mr. Carl Cowart for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service  
51 to the citizens of his country and extend to him their most profound gratitude for the great

52 sacrifice and valiant courage he demonstrated during his service in the United States Navy  
53 and Army.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
55 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Carl Cowart.